

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the paragraph on page 1 of the specification beginning “This application is based upon” with the following amended paragraph:

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003 – 23572 filed on January ~~30~~31, 2003, the content of which ~~are~~is incorporated herein by reference.

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 10, line 15 of the specification beginning “FIG. 3 shows a sensor” with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows a sensor 8, which is taken as representative of the plurality of sensor 12 to 15 that are connected to the VSC-ECU 1. Instantaneous wire interruption detection is executed by the sensor 8, and the other sensors and the EFI-ECU 11, using the same procedure. It should be noted that, here, an explanation will be presented for a configuration in which the sensor 8 is connected to the VSC-ECU 1 via an intermediate connector ~~10~~20, as shown in FIG. 3; in particular, one side of the intermediate connector ~~10~~20 is connected to the VSC-ECU 1 by a signal wire (wire harness) 2a, and the other side of the intermediate connector ~~10~~20 is connected to the sensor 8 via a signal wire (wire harness) 2b.

(3) Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 11 beginning “Next, as shown in FIG. 4,” with the following amended paragraph:

Next, as shown in FIG. 4, in the procedure 2, vibration is applied to a portion (2) as shown in FIG. 3, namely, the intermediate connector ~~10~~20 and the wire harnesses 2a and 2b, and

the latch signal is monitored using the tester device 7. In the same way as in the procedure 1 described above, in the case that the warning device of the tester device 7 issues a warning, it is possible that a fitting failure (loose contact) of the intermediate connector ~~4020~~ is the cause of the instantaneous wire interruption. Accordingly, after the fitting of the intermediate connector ~~4020~~ is reliably executed, once again, vibration is applied to the intermediate connector ~~4020~~ and the wire harness 2a and 2b, and the latch signal is monitored using the tester device 7. At this point, if no warning is issued by the warning device of the tester device 7, it is determined that the cause of the instantaneous wire interruption was a fitting failure of the intermediate connector ~~4020~~.